A Tender Farewel

To My Loving FRIENDS.

By THEODORE ECCLESTON.

NOT knowing how few my Days may be, in a Weighty Sense of my Heavenly Father's Love, I am drawn forth to offer, and leave with *Friends*, a few Words of Tender Advice; putting them in Mind of the Blessed Visitation of *Grace*, *Mercy* and *Peace*, which the Lord afforded to our Parents, and which also, a few (that are now in Years) had a comfortable Share of; Weaning them from the *World's Glory* and *Vanity*, and raising their Minds to better Enjoyments, even to *Things that are Above*, where Christ is, God over All, Blessed for ever.

The first Generation, the *Worthies* of that Day, we have seen mostly removed

away, one after another, as ripe Sheafs in their Season, gathered by the Great *Husbandman* (I fully believe) into that Garner of Eternal Rest, where they poſſeſs the Fruits of their Labours, Joy unutterable, and Fulneſs of Glory, no more to return to the afflicted State, wherein they, for a Seaſon, fought the Fight of Faith, and laid hold of Eternal Life.

Whilſt theſe had their Exerciſes here below, might it not be ſaid, what greater Joy had they, than to ſee their Children walking in the Truth, following them as they had followed Chriſt; and now for us that remain, what greater Joy can we have, than going on in the Foot-ſteps of the Companions, taſting of the exceeding Riches of his Love, following the Lamb in the Regeneration, till having been fitted by him, whilſt we are here, we may be at length received of him to a Portion of that Everlaſting Reſt, that he has prepared for all his Little Ones, to ſing Hallelujahs, Holy and Eternal, to God, and the Lamb, for ever and ever.

What Manner of Perſons ought we to be, that we may ſo finiſh, both as Examples, and Encouragers of the Flock in Faith and Faithfulneſs, that they alſo in the Way of Self-Denial, may war a good Warfare, having

ving an Eye daily to that Recompence *Moſes* of Old had in View, when he refuſed to be called the Son of *Pharoah*'s Daughter, and choſe rather to ſuffer Afflictions with the People of God, than to enjoy the Pleaſures of Sin.

And the Afflictions do not now abound, as in Time paſt, yet who is now without their Exerciſes? And in this Time of Eaſe and Liberty, do not Temptations abound? Does not the World, and the Enjoyment of the Good Things, much take up the Minds of ſome, do not the Vanities, and Sinful Pleaſures, amuſe others, and divert them from the ſtraight and narrow Way of Life.

And therefore, dear Friends, let us all watch, for the Devil our Adverſary is ſtill ſeeking whom of us he may devour, and draw off from a cloſe walking with God, in his Fear, in his Council, yielding due Subjection to his Will, who is Lord of all, and worthy to reign in, and among his Choſen People.

Let it be remembred by all, how that (moſtly) it was in the Meetings of his People, the Lord did in an eſpecial Manner, viſit our Souls with his Day Spring from on High: O how then did we rejoyce therein, what aſſured Evidence had we then upon our Spirits, that it was the

Lord, what Gladneſs of Heart had we, when in Meetings we felt the Times of Refreſhments, in the Preſence of our God, how heartily then were Sincere Cries in our Souls, *Lord ever give us of this Bread.* Now let all conſider, do the ſame Longings after him, continue with us ; are we as Zealous to go to Meetings as we then were ; for if a Slackneſs gets in upon our Minds, and our Zeal abates towards thoſe Bleſſed Opportunities, where we firſt met with the Lord, and have ſince often had his Kindneſs renewed upon our Souls, what is the Cauſe ? If it is not ſo now, there is no Fault in God.

But is there not a Fault in ſome of us ; for if we abide in the firſt Love, we ſhall be earneſt in our Spirits, to enjoy more from him, and be willing to wait for him, till he ſhall pleaſe to open his Hand towards us, filling the living Soul with Bread. But if we ſet down in a Meeting in an unconcerned Mind, 'twill not avail for ſome to ſay to others, *Give us of your Oil*, for that ſtrongly implies their Lamps are wanting of it ; then go not to them that ſell, but to him that can ſupply all your Wants, who ſees all our States, and who among us, is in a True Hunger after the living Bread, and are labouring for it,

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in the Advice our Lord gave, *Not to labour for the Meat that periſheth, but for that which endureth unto Everlaſting Life, which the Son of Man ſhall give you.*

As it was chiefly in Meetings, that the Lord was pleaſed to make known clearly, the Bleſſed Viſitation of his *Grace* and *Holy Spirit*, ſo it may be well that ſuch, who have in ſome Degree ſuffered an Abatement, of their Zeal, or their Love to the Truth, to grow cold, that they do fervently ſeek to the Lord and cry to him, that he will pleaſe to diſcover to them, which Way the Enemy hath ſo far prevailed with them; and earneſtly pray to him for Strength, to withſtand that Work of our Adverſary, who would not only cool the Love of one, or a few, but of all; and if our Love to God, and his Truth, grows cold, no wonder if Iniquity abound, and the Name of God be diſhonoured by ſuch, and then there's Danger ſuch will grow regardleſs of Meetings; as if the former Sweetneſs of thoſe Refreſhing Seaſons, were now of ſmall Value; as if their Souls did not now ſo thirſt after the Water of Life, or not ſo hunger after the Heavenly Bread, as heretofore.

Dear *Friends*, depend upon it, the Goodneſs of God endures for ever; Therefore

on our Part, let a faithful Search be made, which Way the Enemy has thus depraved any of our Minds, and gotten Advantage of us; Christ in the Parable of four Sorts of Ground, describeth one Sort, wherein the good Seed, or Word grew, and Thorns came up and choaked the Word; and in explaining the Parable, he shews what these Thorns are, *viz.* the Care of this World, and the Deceitfulness of Riches, and the Lusts of other Things. Let us now examine our selves, do the Cares of this World so encumber our Minds, that they hinder our Growth in the Truth; there is certainly both a lawful, yea, and a necessary Care incumbent upon us; but doth it hinder our Prospering in the Truth, then it is inordinate, then it is blameable; so likewise is there an Hazard, that the Good Things of this Life may draw away our Minds, from the Sense of Truth, or the Deceitfulness of Riches may so prevail, that the inordinate Love thereof, may choak the Good Seed.

The Youth of our Time, may (some of them) not yet be burthen'd with the Cares, nor yet come under the Temptation that is in Riches, but there's Danger, the Lusts of other Things may prevail on their Minds, and deprave their Desires,

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drawing ſome after the Luſt of the Fleſh, or the Luſt of the Eye, or the Pride of Life, either of which may choak the Good Seed, and hinder them from going forward, in the Way of Truth, and from following on in the Footſteps of the Followers of the Lamb.

It's therefore well for all, both Old and Young, to be upon a faithful Search in themſelves, leſt a Coldneſs in their Love towards God, or his People, or the Meetings of his People prevail; where the Lord hath often bleſſed and refreſht his Heritage, not only in cauſing his Doctrine to drop as Rain, and diſtil as Dew upon his tender Plants, in Times of Teſtimony and Solemn Prayer, but alſo in our Silent Waitings upon God, for bleſſed be his Holy Name, he hath Regard to thoſe Hungring Ones, who can't be ſatisfied without him, but are crying in their Souls, *When ſhall I come and appear before Him*; and in theſe may be ſecret Cries, with Sighs and Groanings, which, (ſays the Apoſtle,) *can't be uttered*: Yet therein the Holy Spirit is our Helper; But ſhall theſe Groanings never be anſwered, yea ſure, the Lord hearkens and hears, and when he makes up his Jewels, they ſhall be his, therefore let the Sincere in Heart, ſtill be drawing

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near to God; and the Apoſtle's Teſtimony is, *He will draw nigh to them*, and the Comforts of his Love, and Conſolation in Chriſt, will be their Portion, in his appointed Seaſon. Mean Time, let none draw back in their Minds, from the holy Progreſs they had began, but go on in their Spiritual Exerciſe; learning to bear the Croſs againſt every evil Inclination in our ſelves, or of Temptation from without.

When the Apoſtle reckoned up *Abraham, Iſaac and Jacob, Moſes, Joſhua, Samuel, David*, and many others, who endured and overcame through a great Fight of Affliction, he ſays alſo, *Wherefore ſeeing we are compaſſed about with ſo great a Cloud of Witneſſes, let us lay aſide every Weight, and the Sin that doth ſo eaſily beſet us, let us run with Patience, the Race that is ſet before us, looking unto* Jeſus, *the Author and Finiſher of our Faith, who, for the Joy that was ſet before him, endured the Croſs, deſpiſing the Shame, and is ſet down at the Right Hand of God.* So that a bleſſed Eſtate, will be aſſuredly the Portion of thoſe, who perſevere to the End. Therefore my *Friends*, let us continue in the ſtraight and narrow Way, for tho' Exerciſes may be for a Night, yet Joy will be in the Morning, and the long deſired Goodneſs of the Lord, will

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more and more become the Portion of his Children: Joy and Gladneſs will be theirs; the Voice of Melody and Singing; the Froſt, and Snow, and the *Winter Seaſon*, will be over, the warming Beams of the Sun of Righteouſneſs will refreſh the Heritage of our God, and then let all, in whom the Breath of Life is, praiſe the Lord, for his Goodneſs and wondrous Works to the Children of Men.

And I would entreat you to conſider, where has the Lord more brought on this bleſſed Work, than in our Meetings, where the Soul, that loves God and his Life-giving Preſence above All, retires from the *World*, in holy and humble Approaches to him, that in a Senſe of the Riches of his Love, we may acknowledge, that in his Preſence, is Life, and at his Right Hand, Rivers of Pleaſure, and that for evermore.

For the Lord is pleaſed to open Springs in the *Deſert*, and the parched Ground becomes a Pool, and in the *Wilderneſs* Waters break out, that the Thirſty Souls may drink and be refreſhed, and glorifie the Lord, for he will exalt his Name among his Choſen; and they ſhall tell what God hath done for their Souls; thus will the Lord raiſe up many to ſpeak well of his Name, and declare of his wondrous

Works, that others hearing thereof may turn to him, and hear him, for themſelves, and acknowledge, *This is indeed the Chriſt, the Saviour of the World.*

It was according to his Will, that in the Primitive Times, there were ſome *Apoſtles*, and ſome *Prophets*, and ſome *Evangeliſts*, and ſome *Paſtors* and *Teachers*, for the perfecting of the *Saints*, for the *Work* of the Miniſtry, for the edifying the Body of Chriſt.

This hath alſo been his Way, and in the renewing his bleſſed Diſpenſation to Men, thus he raiſed up his Miniſtry.

And they being brought to experience themſelves enlightned by the Lord, he ſent them forth to Preach the Light to others; and this is obſervable, that when Men loſt the Life of Religion, and went into Forms of Humane Invention, ſome ſet up one Device, and others another, and but few ſeemed to have any Senſe that *Life* was wanting, and the *Teaching* of the *Holy Spirit* not regarded, whereby Men might be led into all *Truth*; and even where they departed from it, many denied that the *Divine Gift* was neceſſary to reſtore the Primitive *Glory* of *Chriſtianity*, to wit, *True Piety*, and *the Holy Self-Denying Life*: But when the Lord raiſed up Meſſengers,

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moved by his *Holy Spirit*, to preach again the *Light*, *Life*, and *Power* of *Religion*, and many being turn'd thereunto, and loving thereof, were concerned to wait in the Measure of it, for the Work of the *Spirit* in themselves, in the sanctifying Virtue of it, and became as *Vessels* prepared for their Master's Use, not only in a Life of Holiness, to testifie against the *Ways* of *Ungodliness*; but also by *Word* and *Testimony*, to preach up the *Light*, *Life* and *Power* of *God*, that his ancient Glory might be more manifest among Men, his Spiritual *Worship* be restored, and *Christianity* it self appear in it's Beauty.

In the spreading of which *Glorious Work*, Praises to his Name, a People were gathered to the Knowledge of his *Truth*, and in divers Places, some were raised up to declare the Way of the Lord; yet as in length of Time, most of these faithful Elders have gone on to the End of their *Race*, and laid down their Heads in Peace and Assurance of *Eternal Rest* with the *Lord*, and the faithful Followers of the Lamb, so there remain still many Sheep that are not yet of his Fold, whom the Lord will gather, that there may be one *Shepherd* and one *Sheepfold*, and that the Lord himself may

feed them, and lead them to the Streams of Living Waters, where they may drink together, and praiſe his Holy Name.

And in Order to this, He in the Days of his Fleſh, put it upon his *Diſciples*, to pray to the *Lord* of *the Harveſt*: *Men* (ſays he) *ſay, yet four Months, and then cometh Harveſt; But lift up your Eyes, and behold the Fields are already White unto Harveſt; The Labourers are Few, and the Harveſt is Great, therefore pray you the Lord of the Harveſt, that He will raiſe up, and ſend forth faithful Labourers.* He could have prayed, and the Lord would have heard him; but he laid it as a Concern upon his true Followers, *Pray ye*, And as the *Diſciples* now may ſee the *Harveſt* is great, and the faithful *Labourers* are but few, is it not now very needful for many thus to pray, eſpecially thoſe in whom a fervent Deſire is, that the *Gathering Day* may advance, and the numberleſs Number may be brought from far, even from the Eaſt and Weſt, North and South, where they have been ſcattered, in the Cloudy and dark Day, wherein a great *Apoſtacy* hath covered many Nations, and *groſs Darkneſs* hath been over the People; even to that Degree, that they have not ſeen the *Darkneſs* wherein they were, the God of the World having blinded

blinded the Minds of them which believe not, leſt the *Light* of *the Glorious Goſpel of Chriſt*, who is the *Image* of *God*, ſhould ſhine unto them. Altho' the *Apoſtle* teſtifies, *that God, who commanded Light to ſhine out of Darkneſs*, (in the Beginning) *hath ſhined in Men's Hearts, to give them the Light of the Knowledge of the Glory of God, in the Face of Jeſus Chriſt.*

But this *Knowledge* is hid from *them*, by the crafty Work of *Satan* and his *Inſtruments*, together with their own Unbelief, and many are eaſie in that State, even as ſleeping the Sleep of Death, and this not only in *Foreign Lands*, but in ſome Degree in our own *Country*; yet ſuch is the Kindneſs of our God, who had *Compaſſion* on us when we were not worthy the leaſt of his Favours, that he is looking down in *Mercy* on many, who yet know him not; and my Faith is, that he will cauſe an Holy Alarm, to be ſounded and heard in the Borders of *Babylon*, that all may come out of her, and not continue Partakers of her Sins, leſt they become Partakers with her of her *Plagues*.

Let the Followers of the Lamb therefore pray to the Lord of the *Harveſt*, that he will ſanctifie, raiſe up, and ſend forth yet many more faithful *Labourers*, in his Power,

Power, to proclaim the great and notable Day of the Lord, that Men may awake to *Righteouſneſs*, and ſtand up from the Dead, that Chriſt may give them *Life*. With Reſpect to our Serious Neighbours, in whoſe Minds honeſt Enquiries are after the *Way* of the Lord, a true *Miniſtry* is *ſerviceable*, that they may be turn'd to *Chriſt* the *True Teacher*, and learn to wait on him, for his *Counſel*, *Help* and *Strength*, thereby to perſevere in a Diſcharge of their *Duty* with Acceptance, and feel an Anſwer of *Peace* from him.

And there is Need of a *Miniſtry* for the *Sake* of the Riſing Generation, both the Children of *Friends* and *Others*, that have in ſome Degree been Educated under the Doctrine of the Truth, that they may be eſtabliſhed therein, and that they may grow thereby, from a Child's State, wherein there's Milk for Babes, unto that of Manhood, wherein is Meat for them that are of Riper Years; that they may be ſtrong, and know the *Word* of *God* abiding in them, to the Overcoming of the *Evil One*, and become as Fathers, knowing him that is from the Beginning, and be found in him.

And as there are Reaſons agreeable to the *Divine Wiſdom*, that in the Church of God, now returning out of the *Wilderneſs*, a *Miniſtry* ſhould be raiſed up of God,

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by his immediate Work, by his own Spirit, 'tis absolutely needful, that they be Born of the *Spirit*; this is not a Birth Born of the *Flesh*, or of the Will of Men, but of his own begetting, raising and qualifying for his *Service*, that they may be capable in his *Requirings*, to speak a Word in season, to the *various States* of *Men*, to comfort the Mourners, whose Faces are toward *Zion*, to strengthen the feeble Knees, and to cause the Hands that have hung down, in a Sense of their own *Weakness* and *Unworthiness*, to be raised up in Thanksgiving and Prayer to him, in whom only the Strength of his People is.

For such is his Condescension to Man, as to raise up *Instruments* in Obedience to him, to comfort his People, and to say unto *Zion*, *Thy God reigns*: These *Instruments* must know God to reign in themselves, have Dominion in, and over them, and they must be his *Willing People*: It must be their Delight to do his Will; these must have learnt to bear his *Cross*: How can they convince others, *That his Yoak is easie, and his Burthen light*, if they don't so experience it themselves. But when the whole Man is brought into *Obedience* to God, then such are capacitated to wait on him, to be order'd by him, to feed his

Sheep

Sheep and his Lambs, with Living Bread, ſuch as himſelf breaks; and that which he breaks, he'll *Bleſs*, and make it of Profit to the People; and that which he gives them for the *People*, they themſelves ſhall have a Share of; ſo that they'll have great Delight in his Service, and be enabled faithfully to declare, *That his Ways are Ways of Pleaſantneſs, and all his Paths are Peace.*

But altho' the Lord may give ſweet Experience of his tender Dealings to his *Children*, yet is not that barely a ſufficient Motive to Preach it, but in due Subjection to his Will, let all wait to be, in all their Services, order'd by him: *My Sheep*, ſaid *Chriſt*, hear my Voice, *they follow me, I put them forth, I go before them, I give unto them Eternal Life, and no Man ſhall be able to pluck them out of my Father's Hand.* So that they that are put forth by him, and know him to go before them, have a good Degree of *Aſſurance* they ſhall be preſerved by him; and then, as he leads them, they ſhall, like the Good *Houſholder*, well inſtructed to the Kingdom, bring forth Things New and Old, New *Openings* and Old *Experiences*; they will know the *Tower* of *David*, where hang a Thouſand Bucklers, all Shields of *Mighty Men.* But 'tis

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not in our Will to make uſe thereof; only as he opens and leads thereto.

Great is the *Myſtery* of *Godlineſs*, but the *Lyon* of the *Tribe* of *Judah* can open it, and give his *Followers* to read therein, and to follow him, from Seal to Seal, to ſee the Thunderings and Earth-Quakes, and Overturnings of all that is not willing that the Son ſhould reign, and put all Things under his Feet, that the Kingdom may be the Lord's and his Chriſt's, and he reign over all; and all that know his *Dominion*, to be an *Everlaſting Dominion*, ought to walk in his Power, wait in his Power, worſhip in his Spirit, and in the Leadings thereof, that thoſe who miniſter may miniſter *Life* and *Power* to the Hearers, that they alſo may have Life in themſelves, become Living and Fruit-bearing Branches of the *True Vine*, in whoſe Fruitfulneſs the Lord of the *Vineyard* will be glorified, and he will prune ſuch Branches, that they may bring forth more Fruit; and a *Vintage Seaſon*, in his due Time, they ſhall know; and drink with him of the New Wine, in the Kingdom of the *Heavenly Father*, where is indeed the *Communion* of Saints, Fellowſhip with the Father, and with his Son, our Lord and Saviour Jeſus Chriſt.

But, O, may his Little Ones ſay, who is ſufficient for theſe Things? truly, not the *Wiſe* and *Learned* in this *World's Wiſdom*, unleſs they become Children, ſuch Little Children, as he invites to come unto him, which he will in no wiſe caſt off, but nouriſh and cheriſh, and carry in his Arms, that no one may caſt them down: Therefore hope you in the Lord, and lean not on your own Underſtandings, but that eternal Arm, that is able to ſupport you, in all your *Services*, and glorifie his great Name in you, and by you; and with the Aboundings of his *Love*, cauſe Thankſgivings and Praiſe to aſcend to his excellent Name who is worthy for ever.

But let all remember the manifold Obligations and Duties they owe unto him, and to their Station, wherein he hath ſet them: 'Twas a notable Attainment of *David*, in which he could ſay, *The Zeal of thy Houſe hath eaten me up*; and may not many now ſay, we count all Things loſs, that we may win Chriſt, and be found in him, not in our own Righteouſneſs, nor in old Experience only, but in him in whom we have Life, not depending on our ſelves, but waiting on him; that when Chriſt, who is our Life, appears, we may appear with him in Glory; or if he is pleaſed

pleaſed at any Time to appear in our *Abaſement*, let us not be unwilling to follow him therein. How was he ſubjected, in his *Humiliation*, to the Will of his *Father*, learning Obedience by the Things that he ſuffered, and how is he now highly exalted, and made a *Prince* and a *Saviour*, that he may give Repentance and Eternal Life to Men.

And ſeeing he hath called and choſen you, to be ſo near to him, as to qualifie you for ſuch *eminent Services* under him, be you all zealouſly concerned, to walk worthy of ſo High and ſo Holy a Vocation; thus will ſelf be more and more abaſed, the Lord over all glorified in his *Saints*, and admired by them that believe.

By a *Miniſtry* thus raiſed up of God, and of his ſending forth, many have been brought to behold the Glorious Light of the Goſpel of Chriſt, and having been turned to the *Light*, have ſeen that in their former Ways, they were in many Things, under the Leadings of *Satan*, and that thereby Great was their *Darkneſs*, and the Lord was mercifully pleaſed to encline many to turn from the *Darkneſs*, to the *Light*, from *Satan's Power*, to the *Power* of *God*, where they found Remiſſion of their Sins, according to the Degrees of

 Repentance,

Repentance, and became Inheritors with the Saints, in the State of Sanctification, through Faith, that is in Chriſt Jeſus.

And through the Progreſs thereof, many were brought to be Witneſſes *of this bleſſed Work*, and in Life and Converſation to walk in the Light, and Experience the Blood of Chriſt, to cleanſe them from *Sin*, to the *Glory of God*, and to the Joy of their Immortal Souls.

And though at firſt, this was a ſtraight and narrow Way, and many Exerciſes were inwardly met withal, and outwardly alſo, in *Beatings*, *Stripes* and *grievous Impriſonments*, yet the Lord was near, and in his own Time, was pleaſed to make good his ancient Promiſe, that the Rod of the *Wicked* ſhall not always reſt upon the Backs of the *Righteous*; and he, who had Power, cauſed the Stormy Winds to ceaſe, and a bleſſed Calm became the Portion of his thankful People.

And whereas before, ſpoiling of Goods was the Trial of many, now a Bleſſing was afforded to the Lawful Induſtry of his People, and good and great Enjoyments were they favour'd withal, ſo that now it became the juſt and awful Care of the Faithful, that Plenty of outward Subſtance might not draw off

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their Minds from the *Heavenly Treasure*; but valuing that, as their chiefest Joy, their *Affections might still be set on Things that are Above*. A Comfortable Proof, that they were risen with *Christ*, and sought his *Glory*, and the *Exaltation* of his *Kingdom* among Men.

And as I am perswaded our *Gracious God* will go on with this *Blessed Work*, by his own *Power*, to rear again the *Tabernacle* of *David*, and cause his *Zion* to become the Beauty of *Nations*; and his *Jerusalem* the *Praise* of the whole *Earth*. Though he may make *Way* thereunto, by permitting many and great *Revolutions* among *Nations*, yet will he reserve the Glory of this *Work*, to the Power of his own Arm; that it may be truly fulfilled, as was said, *Not by Sword, nor by Spear, but by his own Spirit*.

And had our early *Protestants*, who were Instrumental to pull down divers Things displeasing to God, continued waiting on him, I doubt not at all, he would have made them Instrumental in building up the waste Places, and have restored among them a *Spiritual Ministry*, and the *Spiritual Baptism*, and the *Living Bread*, which Christ himself is, Who said, *He that eateth my Flesh, and drinketh my Blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him*;

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'Tis true, many of his *Disciples*, when they heard this, said, *This is an hard Saying, Who can hear it?* But as if he would take their Minds off, from a Notion of *Outward Eating*, he said, *It is the Spirit that quickens, the Flesh profits nothing, The Words that I speak unto you, they are Spirit, and they are Life.*

The *War* that was seen in Heaven, between *Michael* and his *Angels*, and the *Dragon* and his *Angels*, is not yet over; therefore is there still Need of a *Ministry*, to watch and give Warning of any *fresh Assaults*, of the *Evil Spirit*, that seeks which Way he may beguile and draw *Men* from the *Love* of the *Truth*, and the straight and narrow Way, which leads to Life, even *the Way of the Cross*, whereby the *Faithful* have known a being *Crucified* in a good Degree to the *World*, and the *World* to them, without which there's no *Overcoming*; and without *Overcoming*, no sitting down with him in his *Kingdom*; as he hath *overcome*, and is set down with his *Father* in his *Kingdom*; therefore let the Offence of the *Cross* cease to none. But, some may say, this is a small Thing, and the other is of no Moment: Wherefore then should Men, for those small Things, decline the Cross, and make to themselves a *Broader Way* than *Truth* hath made, and thereby

thereby let the *Enemy* keep a Power over them, in their ſmall Things: 'Tis he that is *faithful in a Little, ſhall be made Ruler over Much*: If the Lord tries Men's Faith in ſmall Things, and they prove unfaithful in thoſe Small Things, how can ſuch expect to be led on to greater? And therefore, how ſmall ſoever thy *Trial is, Take the Yoak upon thee*, and prove his *Faithfulneſs*, who ſaid, *My Yoak is Eaſie, and my Burthen is Light; take it upon you, and ye ſhall find Reſt and Peace unto your Souls*, and is not that *Reſt* and *Peace* worthy of thy *Obedience, in theſe ſmall Things*; Beſides in our keeping under the *Croſs*, the *Enemy's Power* grows weaker and weaker, and our *Strength* and *Faith* will grow ſtronger and ſtronger, to reſiſt the *Adverſary*, and all will ſtill tend to the Overcoming Him, and by every Victory, our *Enemy* will be weakned, and the *Faithful* ſtrengthned, and be made more willing to bear the *Daily-Croſs*. And I do fervently intreat, that the Rule of your *Obedience* may be God's Requirings; his *Counſel* your *Delight*; and his *Strength* your *Support*; ſo will his *Reward* be your *Joy*, and your *Enjoyment* of *Peace* with him here, a Reaſonable Aſſurance of *Peace* and *Joy* in his *Preſence*, for Ever.

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